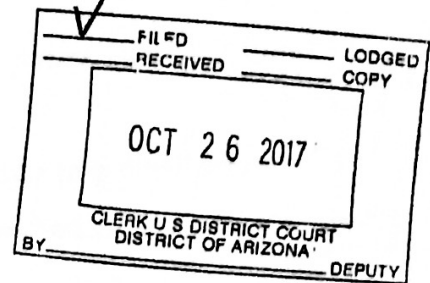


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13 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
14 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

15 United States of America,  
16  
17 Plaintiff,  
18  
19 vs.  
20 Katherine Rose Sparks,  
21  
22 Defendant.

CR 17-00478-001-TUC-RM (LCK)

PLEA AGREEMENT

23 The United States of America and the defendant agree to the following disposition  
24 of this matter:

25 PLEA

26 1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Counts Two and Four of the  
27 Indictment, both felonies, charging a violation of Title 21, United States Code (U.S.C.),  
28 Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(D), Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana and a  
violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 111(a)(1), (b) and 1114, Assault on a  
Federal Officer With A Dangerous or Deadly Weapon. The remaining counts of the  
Indictment will be dismissed at sentencing.

Elements of the Offenses

2. The elements of the offenses are as follows:

**Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana**

1 a. The defendant knowingly and intentionally possessed a quantity of  
2 marijuana; and

3 b. The defendant intended to deliver the marijuana to another person.

4 As a sentencing factor, the government would be required to prove that the quantity  
5 of marijuana possessed was approximately 42 kilograms.

6 **Assault on a Federal Officer With A Dangerous or Deadly Weapon**

7 a. First, the defendant forcibly assaulted a federal officer or employee;

8 b. Second, the defendant did so while the federal officer or employee was engaged  
9 in, or on account of his or her official duties; and

10 c. Third, the defendant used a deadly or dangerous weapon.

11 **Maximum Penalties**

12 3. The maximum penalties for a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and  
13 841(b)(1)(D) are a fine of \$250,000.00 or a maximum term of five (5) years imprisonment,  
14 or both and a term of between two (2) years and lifetime supervised release.

15 A violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 111(a)(1), (b) is a Class C felony. The maximum term  
16 of imprisonment is 20 years. A Class C felony is punishable by both imprisonment and a  
17 maximum fine of \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 3 years.

18 4. Pursuant to the Sentencing Guidelines issued pursuant to the Sentencing  
19 Reform Act of 1984, the court shall

20 (1) order the defendant to make restitution to any victim of the offense  
21 unless, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3663 and Section 5E1.1 of the  
22 Guidelines, the court determines that restitution would not be appropriate in this case;

23 (2) order defendant to pay a fine, which may include the costs of  
24 probation, supervised release or incarceration, unless, pursuant to Title 18, United States  
25 Code, Section 3611 and Section 5E1.2(f) of the Guidelines, defendant establishes the  
26 applicability of the exceptions found therein;

27 5. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, the court is required  
28 to impose a special assessment on defendant of \$100.00 per felony count. The special

assessment is due at the time defendant enters the plea of guilty, but in no event shall it be paid later than the time of sentencing.

Drug Conviction & Immigration Consequences

6. The defendant understands and acknowledges that pleading guilty may result in the termination or denial of certain food stamp, social security, and other benefits for defendant and the defendant's immediate family pursuant to 21 U.S.C. §§ 862 and 862a.

7. The defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his/her immigration status if the defendant is a recently naturalized United States citizen or is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense(s) to which defendant is pleading guilty. Although there may be exceptions, the defendant understands that the defendant's guilty plea and conviction for this offense make it practically inevitable and a virtual certainty that the defendant will be removed or deported from the United States. The defendant agrees that he/she has discussed this eventuality with his/her attorney. The defendant nevertheless affirms that he/she wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that this plea entails, even if the consequence is the defendant's automatic removal from the United States.

STIPULATIONS, TERMS AND AGREEMENTS

Agreements Regarding Sentencing

8. The parties agree that the following guideline calculations apply to the assault on a federal officer with a dangerous or deadly weapon offense:

U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2	14
U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2(b)(2)	+4
U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2(b)(3)	+5
U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2(b)(7)	+2
U.S.S.G. § 3A1.2	+6
U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1	-3



Adjusted offense level 28

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P., Rule 11(c)(1)(C), the government and the defendant stipulate and agree that the following is an appropriate disposition of this case:

70 to 97 months imprisonment if defendant's Criminal History Category is I;

78 to 108 months imprisonment if defendant's Criminal History Category is II;

87 to 121 months imprisonment if defendant's Criminal History Category is III;

100 to 137 months imprisonment if defendant's Criminal History Category is IV;

120 to 162 months imprisonment if defendant's Criminal History Category is V;

130 to 175 months imprisonment if defendant's Criminal History Category is VI.

9. No Other Departure or Reduction. The defendant understands and agrees that this plea agreement contains all of the terms, conditions, and stipulations regarding sentencing. If the defendant requests or if the Court authorizes (a) any downward departure or variance; or (b) any other reduction or adjustment of sentence not specifically agreed to in writing by the parties, the government will withdraw from the plea agreement. If the court departs from the terms and conditions set forth in this plea agreement, either party may withdraw.

10. The government reserves the right to withdraw from the plea agreement if it is determined that the defendant is Criminal History Category V or VI.

11. The defendant may withdraw from the plea agreement if he/she receives a sentence in excess of the stipulated ranges listed above.

12. The defendant understands that if the defendant violates any of the conditions of the defendant's supervised release, the supervised release may be revoked. Upon such revocation, notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, the defendant may be required to serve a term of imprisonment or the defendant's sentence may otherwise be altered.

13. The defendant and the government agree that this agreement does not in any manner restrict the actions of the government in any other district or bind any other United States Attorney's Office.



1  
2 14. If the Court, after reviewing this plea agreement, concludes any provision is  
3 inappropriate, it may reject the plea agreement pursuant to Rule 11(c)(5), Fed. R. Crim. P.,  
4 giving the defendant, in accordance with Rule 11(d)(2)(A), Fed. R. Crim. P., an opportunity  
5 to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

6 15. Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A), Fed. R. Crim. P., the remaining Counts of the  
7 Indictment will be dismissed at the time of sentencing.

8 16. Restitution: For purposes of sentencing, the offense of conviction constitutes  
9 a crime of violence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 16. Therefore, under 18 U.S.C.  
10 §§ 3663A(a)(1), (c)(1)(A)(I) and 3771(6), the victim, W.R., is entitled to mandatory  
11 restitution and the PSR should include an assessment regarding restitution. Further, the  
12 victims should be characterized as such in the PSR and the PSR should also include a  
13 victim impact statement, if the victim is willing to make one. Lastly, the victim should be  
14 allowed to attend any hearings held pertaining to this matter and address the Court at the  
15 sentencing of this matter, if the victim would like to, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3771.

16 Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663 and/or 3663A and 2248, the defendant specifically  
17 agrees to pay full restitution, regardless of the resulting loss amount, but in no event more  
18 than \$250,000, to all victims directly or proximately harmed by the defendant's "relevant  
19 conduct," including conduct pertaining to any dismissed counts or uncharged conduct, as  
20 defined by U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, regardless of whether such conduct constitutes an "offense"  
21 under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2259, 3663 or 3663A. The defendant understands that such restitution  
22 will be included in the Court's Order of Judgment and that an unanticipated restitution  
23 amount will not serve as grounds to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea or to withdraw  
24 from this plea agreement.

25 Assets and Financial Responsibility

26 17. The defendant shall (i) make a full accounting of all assets, including real  
27 and personal property in which the defendant has any legal or equitable interest; (ii) permit  
28 the U.S. Attorney's office to immediately obtain the defendant's credit reports in order to

1 evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation that is or might be  
2 imposed by the court; (iii) make full disclosure of all current and projected assets to the  
3 U.S. Probation Office immediately and prior to the termination of the defendant's  
4 supervised release or probation, such disclosures to be shared with the U.S. Attorney's  
5 Office, including the Financial Litigation Unit, for any purpose as well as the financial  
6 condition of all household members (including but not limited to that of a spouse or child);  
7 (iv) cooperate fully with the government and the Probation Officer to execute such  
8 documentation as may be necessary to secure assets to be applied to restitution owed by  
9 the defendant. The defendant agrees to permit the Probation Officer to provide to the U.S.  
10 Attorney's office copies of any and all financial information provided by the defendant to  
11 the U.S. Probation Office; and (v) not (and shall not aid and abet any other party to) sell,  
12 hide, waste, spend, destroy, transfer or otherwise devalue any such assets or property before  
13 sentencing, without the prior approval of the United States (provided, however, that no  
14 prior approval will be required for routine, day-to-day expenditures).

15 18. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3613, the defendant agrees that all financial  
16 obligations imposed by the court, including restitution, shall be due immediately upon  
17 judgment, shall be subject to immediate enforcement by the government, and shall be  
18 submitted to the Treasury Offset Program so that any federal payment or transfer of  
19 returned property defendant receives may be offset and applied to federal debts (which  
20 offset will not affect any periodic payment schedule). If the defendant is incarcerated, the  
21 defendant agrees to participate in the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility  
22 Program pursuant to a payment schedule to be determined by the court. The defendant  
23 understands that any schedules of payments imposed by the court, including schedules  
24 imposed while the defendant is incarcerated or on supervised release, are merely minimum  
25 schedules of payments and not the only method, nor a limitation on the methods, available  
26 to the government to enforce the judgment.

27 19. If the defendant is a member of a Native American tribe that provides "per  
28 capita" payments to its members, the defendant agrees that any such "per capita" payment

1 shall be paid over to the Clerk of the Court and applied to the defendant's restitution  
2 obligation until restitution to all victims is paid in full.

3 20. Perjury and Other False Statement Offenses and Other Offenses. Nothing  
4 in this agreement shall be construed to protect defendant in any way from prosecution for  
5 perjury, false declaration or false statement, or any other offense committed by defendant  
6 after the date of this agreement.

7 21. Reinstitution of Prosecution.

8 If defendant's guilty plea is rejected, withdrawn, vacated or reversed at any time,  
9 the United States will be free to prosecute defendant for all charges of which it has  
10 knowledge, and any charges that have been dismissed because of this plea agreement will  
11 be automatically reinstated. In such event, defendant waives any objections, motions or  
12 defenses based upon the statute of limitations, the Speedy Trial Act or constitutional  
13 restrictions in bringing the later charges or proceedings. Defendant understands that any  
14 statements made at the time of defendant's change of plea or sentencing may be used  
15 against defendant in any subsequent hearing, trial or proceeding as permitted by Fed R.  
16 Crim. P. 11(f).

17 22. Disclosure of Information to U.S. Probation Office.

18 a. Defendant understands the United States' obligation to provide all  
19 information in its file regarding defendant to the United States Probation Department.

20 b. Defendant will cooperate fully with the United States Probation  
21 Department. Such cooperation will include truthful statements in response to any questions  
22 posed by the Probation Department, including, but not limited to (1) all criminal history  
23 information, i.e., all criminal convictions as defined under the Sentencing Guidelines; (2)  
24 all financial information, e.g., present financial assets or liabilities that relate to the ability  
25 of defendant to pay a fine or restitution; (3) all history of drug abuse which would warrant  
26 a treatment condition as part of sentencing; and (4) all history of mental illness or  
27 conditions which would warrant a treatment condition as a part of sentencing.

28 23. Forfeiture, Civil, and Administrative Proceedings.



1 a. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to protect defendant from civil  
2 forfeiture proceedings or prohibit the United States from proceeding with and/or initiating  
3 an action for civil forfeiture.

4 b. Defendant will identify all assets and identify the source of income used to  
5 obtain the assets. Defendant will identify all assets used to facilitate the commission of  
6 any crime charged in this indictment. Defendant will testify truthfully in any civil  
7 forfeiture proceeding.

8 c. This agreement does not preclude the United States from instituting any civil  
9 or administrative proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.

10 Waiver of Defenses and Appeal Rights

11 24. Provided the defendant receives a sentence in accordance with this plea  
12 agreement, the defendant waives (1) any and all motions, defenses, probable cause  
13 determinations, and objections that the defendant could assert to the indictment or  
14 information; and (2) any right to file an appeal, any collateral attack, and any other writ or  
15 motion that challenges the conviction, an order of restitution or forfeiture, the entry of  
16 judgment against the defendant, or any aspect of the defendant's sentence-including the  
17 manner in which the sentence is determined and any sentencing guideline determinations.  
18 The sentence is in accordance with this agreement if the sentence imposed does not exceed  
19 ?? months imprisonment and is within the stipulated range or below the stipulated range if  
20 the Court grants a variance.

21 The defendant further waives: (1) any right to appeal the Court's entry of judgment  
22 against defendant; (2) any right to appeal the imposition of sentence upon defendant under  
23 Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 (sentence appeals); (3) any right to appeal the  
24 district court's refusal to grant a requested variance; (4) any right to collaterally attack  
25 defendant's conviction and sentence under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, or  
26 any other collateral attack; and (5) any right to file a motion for modification of sentence,  
27 including under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3582(c). The defendant  
28 acknowledges that this waiver shall result in the dismissal of any appeal or collateral attack

1 the defendant might file challenging his/her conviction or sentence in this case. If the  
2 defendant files a notice of appeal or a habeas petition, notwithstanding this agreement,  
3 defendant agrees that this case shall, upon motion of the government, be remanded to the  
4 district court to determine whether defendant is in breach of this agreement and, if so, to  
5 permit the government to withdraw from the plea agreement. This waiver shall not be  
6 construed to bar an otherwise-preserved claim of ineffective assistance of counsel or of  
7 "prosecutorial misconduct" (as that term is defined by Section II.B of Ariz. Ethics Op. 15-  
8 01 (2015)).

9 25. If the defendant's guilty plea is rejected, withdrawn, vacated, or reversed by  
10 any court in a later proceeding, the government will be free to prosecute the defendant for  
11 all charges as to which it has knowledge, and any charges that have been dismissed because  
12 of this plea agreement will be automatically reinstated. In such event, the defendant waives  
13 any objections, motions, or defenses based upon the Speedy Trial Act or the Sixth  
14 Amendment to the Constitution as to the delay occasioned by the later proceedings.

15 Plea Addendum

16 26. This written plea agreement, and any written addenda filed as attachments to  
17 this plea agreement, contain all the terms and conditions of the plea. Any additional  
18 agreements, if any such agreements exist, shall be recorded in a separate document and  
19 may be filed with the Court under seal. Accordingly, additional agreements, if any, may  
20 not be in the public record.

21 WAIVER OF DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS AND FACTUAL BASIS

22 Waiver of Rights

23 I have read each of the provisions of the entire plea agreement with the assistance  
24 of counsel and understand its provisions. I have discussed the case and my constitutional  
25 and other rights with my attorney. I understand that by entering my plea of guilty I will be  
26 giving up my right to plead not guilty; to trial by jury; to confront, cross-examine, and  
27 compel the attendance of witnesses; to present evidence in my defense; to remain silent  
28 and refuse to be a witness against myself by asserting my privilege against self-

1 incrimination; all with the assistance of counsel; to be presumed innocent until proven  
2 guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; and to appeal.

3 I agree to enter my guilty plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions set  
4 forth in this agreement.

5 I have been advised by my attorney of the nature of the charge to which I am entering  
6 my guilty plea. I have been advised by my attorney of the nature and range of the possible  
7 sentence, and that I will not be able to withdraw my guilty plea if I am dissatisfied with the  
8 sentence the court imposes.

9 My guilty plea is not the result of force, threats, assurance or promises other than  
10 the promises contained in this agreement. I agree to the provisions of this agreement as a  
11 voluntary act on my part, rather than at the direction of or because of the recommendation  
12 of any other person, and I agree to be bound according to its provisions. I agree that any  
13 Sentencing Guidelines range referred to herein or discussed with my attorney is not binding  
14 on the Court and is merely an estimate.

15 I agree that this written plea agreement contains all the terms and conditions of my  
16 plea and that promises made by anyone (including my attorney) that are not contained  
17 within this written plea agreement are without force and effect and are null and void.

18 I am satisfied that my defense attorney has represented me in a competent manner.

19 I am not now on or under the influence of any drug, medication, liquor, or other  
20 intoxicant or depressant, which would impair my ability to fully understand the terms and  
21 conditions of this plea agreement.

22 Factual Basis and Relevant Conduct

23 I further agree that the following facts accurately describe my conduct in connection  
24 with the offense to which I am pleading guilty and that if this matter were to proceed to  
25 trial the government could prove the elements of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt:

26  
27 On or about February 23, 2017 at or near Naco, in the District of Arizona, I  
28 was the driver of a gold Mercury Mountaineer. Matthew Hand, the  
passenger, and I drove to a dirt road near the border in order to pick up two  
bundles of marijuana being transported from Mexico into the United States.




1 The total weight of the marijuana bundles was 42 kilograms. I understand  
2 that Border Patrol Agents (BPA) observed the bundles being loaded into the  
3 rear passenger area of the Mountaineer. I intended to be paid to deliver the  
4 marijuana to another person.

5 After the marijuana was observed being loaded into the gold Mountaineer,  
6 agents notified other BPA's in the area. BPA W. R. was on patrol near Naco,  
7 Arizona. As a member of the USBP Disruption Unit, BPA R. was patrolling  
8 in an unmarked vehicle and in plain-clothes with his badge hanging visibly  
9 from his neck. BPA R. identified the gold SUV as it passed his vehicle  
10 traveling west on Highway 92. An additional marked Border Patrol vehicle  
11 was also following the Mountaineer. Both vehicles activated their law  
12 enforcement lights as I was driving down a hill on westbound Highway 92.  
13 The law enforcement vehicles, with their lights flashing, continued to follow  
14 us west on Highway 92 until we approached a red traffic light on the east  
15 side of Highway 92's San Pedro River bridge crossing. At the light, I  
16 accelerated and veered off the highway at a high rate of speed, ultimately  
17 crashing into a ditch on the side of Highway 92.

18 BPA R. exited his vehicle, and proceeded to the door on Hand's of the SUV.  
19 Other agents approached my side of the vehicle. All of the agents identified  
20 themselves as law enforcement officer and ordered me to turn off the vehicle.  
21 I heard BPA R. ask Hand to exit the vehicle and when he did not exit the  
22 SUV, he attempted to Hand from the vehicle. Hand physically resisted and  
23 fought with BPA R., punching and pushing BPA R. in an attempt to remain  
24 in the SUV. At the same time, I was yelling at agents to leave Hand alone  
25 and did not turn off the SUV. At one point, BPA R. removed Hand from the  
26 passenger's seat and attempted to subdue him on the ground. While they  
27 were wrestling, I placed the SUV in reverse and slammed on the gas pedal,  
28 causing the open passenger side vehicle door to trap the left knee of BPA R.  
and drag him along the dirt road. Hand was able to climb back into the  
passenger's seat before I successfully negotiated the vehicle back onto  
Highway 92 traveling east. We drove to a ranch in Sierra Vista, parked the  
SUV in some brush and were taken to the Bella Vista Motel.

BPA R. was transported for medical treatment to Canyon Vista Medical  
Center in Sierra Vista, Arizona. The results of a left knee MRI on March 6,  
2017 revealed a complete tear of the anterior cruciate ligament, a complete  
tear of the posterior cruciate ligament, a complete tear of the proximal medial  
collateral ligament involving both the superficial and deep fibers, among  
other injuries. BPA R. has had surgery on his left knee as a result of the  
assault.

10-26-17  
Date

  
Katherine Rose Sparks  
Defendant

#### DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S APPROVAL

I have discussed this case and the plea agreement with my client in detail and have  
advised the defendant of all matters within the scope of Rule 11, Fed. R. Crim. P., the

1 constitutional and other rights of an accused, the factual basis for and the nature of the  
2 offense to which the guilty plea will be entered, possible defenses, and the consequences  
3 of the guilty plea, including the defendant's waiver of the right to appeal. No assurances,  
4 promises, or representations have been given to me or to the defendant by the government  
5 or by any of its representatives which are not contained in this written agreement. I concur  
6 in the entry of the plea as indicated above and on the terms and conditions set forth in this  
7 agreement as in the best interests of my client. I agree to make a bona fide effort to ensure  
8 the guilty plea is entered in accordance with all the requirements of Rule 11, Fed. R. Crim.  
9 P.

10  
11 Date: 10-26-17

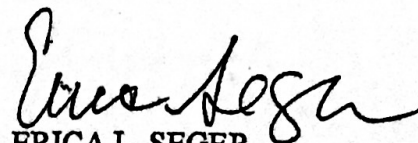
  
Stephanie Meade, Esq.  
Attorney for Defendant

12  
13  
14 GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL

15 I have reviewed this matter and the plea agreement. I agree on behalf of the United  
16 States that the terms and conditions set forth are appropriate and are in the best interests of  
17 justice.

18 ELIZABETH A. STRANGE  
19 Acting United States Attorney  
District of Arizona

20  
21  
22 Date: 10/26/17

  
ERICA L. SEGER  
Assistant U.S. Attorney